

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to applicant's Request for Continued Examination (RCE) amendment filed on 7/16/2008. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, and 4-9 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because it is a "program executable by a computer of an information processor storing format engines each for executing data described in a different format" which is geared towards software per se. A program executable by a computer is nothing more than software and thus claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2 and 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (United States Patent Number 5,887,193) in view of Japanese

Patent (JP, 7-444777) hereafter referred to as Canon further in view of Japanese Patent (JP, 11317991) hereafter referred to as Toshiba.

Regarding **Claim 1**,

Takahashi discloses an information processor storing a plurality of format engines each for executing data described in a different format, the information processor comprising: **(See Abstract and Figures 1-2, Takahashi discloses a multimedia controller for a plurality of devices)**

managing an operation of each format engine; and **(See Abstract, Figures 1-2, and Column 2 Lines 20-47, Takahashi discloses a controller for managing a plurality of multimedia devices in a common manner)**

operation control means, provided in correspondence with each format engine, for pre-defining a correspondence between the common states and individual states which define the operating states of each format engine in a representation different for each format engine, and controlling operations of the format engines such that each format engine is in an arbitrary individual state; **(See Abstract Figures 1-2, and Column 1 Line 50 – Column 2 Line 19, Takahashi discloses a controller which stores read control information in memory in a predetermined format, dependent on a particular device)**

wherein:

for changing a format engine to a predetermined common state, the format engine managing means sends a message including common state information

indicating the predetermined common state to the operation control means provided in correspondence with the format engine; and **(See Figure 1-2 and Column 40 Lines 37-65, Takahashi discloses a message sent from the controller to a multimedia device and determines whether device is off or on)**

when the message is sent from the format engine managing means, the operation control means controls the format engine such that the format engine is in the individual state corresponding to the common state indicated by the common state information included in the message. **(See Figure 1-2 and Column 19 Line 43 – Column 20 Line 23, Takahashi discloses the that controller controls the on/off of the multimedia device)**

Takahashi does not explicitly teach format engine managing means for pre-defining common states which define operating states of each format engine in a representation common to all the format engines

individual state obtaining means, provided in correspondence with each format engine, for obtaining an individual state of each format engine and sending common state information indicating the common state corresponding to the obtained individual state to the format engine managing means;

wherein the format engine managing means manages an operation of each format engine based on the common state indicated by the common state information which is output from the individual state obtaining means.

Canon teaches format engine managing means for pre-defining common states which define operating states of each format engine in a representation common to all the format engines. **(See code '00' and '01', Canon.)**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Canon with that of Takahashi because both deal with the controlling of multiple devices from a controller. The advantage of combining the means for pre-defining common states which define operating states of each format engine in a representation common to all the format engines of Canon with the teaching of Takahashi is that it makes the system more efficient and robust.

Toshiba teaches individual state obtaining means, provided in correspondence with each format engine, for obtaining an individual state of each format engine and sending common state information indicating the common state corresponding to the obtained individual state to the format engine managing means; **(See paragraphs [0130] - [0140] and Figures 30-33, Toshiba.)**

wherein the format engine managing means manages an operation of each format engine based on the common state indicated by the common state information which is output from the individual state obtaining means. **(See paragraphs [0130] - [0140] and Figures 30-33, Toshiba.)**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Toshiba with that of Canon and Takahashi because both deal with the control of electronic devices from a device. The advantage of combining individual state obtaining means, provided in correspondence with each format engine, for obtaining an

individual state of each format engine and sending common state information indicating the common state corresponding to the obtained individual state to the format engine managing means and wherein the format engine managing means manages an operation of each format engine based on the common state indicated by the common state information which is output from the individual state obtaining means of Toshiba with the teachings of Canon and Toshiba is that it makes the system more robust and efficient and easier to use.

Regarding **Claim 2**,

Takahashi, Canon and Toshiba teach an information processor according to claim 1, further comprising table storage means, provided in correspondence with each format engine, for storing a table including sets of an individual state of each format engine and a common state corresponding to the individual state; **(See Figure 55 and Column 37 Line 27 – Column 38 Line 13, Takahashi discloses a table storage unit for storing the individual state of each multimedia device)**

wherein the operation control means determines the individual state from the common state by referring to the table. **(Takahashi discloses the table in Figure 55 that has an on/off column; the off state being common to all devices and the on state being particular to an individual device as all devices are different)**

Regarding **Claim 4**,

Takahashi, Canon and Toshiba teach an information processor according to claim 3, further comprising a minimum resource which is used by a format engine during execution and cannot be used simultaneously by a plurality of format engines; **(See Column 8 Lines 13-56, Takahashi discloses RAM in the multimedia controller which is used as a work area by the multimedia device during execution of a program)**

wherein:

when the individual state obtained from a format engine shows an operating state using the minimum resource, the individual state obtaining means outputs common state information indicating a predetermined state to the format engine managing means as the common state information of the format engine; and when the individual state obtained from a format engine show an operating state not using the minimum resource, the individual state obtaining means outputs common state information indicating a state other than the predetermined state to the format engine managing means as the common state information of the format engine; and **(See Figure 55 and Column 8 Lines 13-56, Takahashi discloses a table which tracks the state of the multimedia devices, in which one of the multimedia devices can be switched from the off to the on position)**

the format engine managing means manages the operation of each format engine such that the common state information of only one format engine indicates the predetermined state. **(See Figure 55, Abstract, Figure 1-2, and Column 37 Line 27 –**

Column 38 Line 13, Takahashi discloses table in Figure 55 that has an on/off and where only on of the devices is in the predetermined on state)

Regarding **Claim 5**,

Takahashi, Canon and Toshiba teach an information processor according to claim 4, wherein: the format engine managing means comprises: activation receiving means for receiving an activation request for activating a format engine; common state obtaining means for obtaining common state information of each format engine from the individual state obtaining means in response to the activation receiving means receiving the activation request; operation stopping means for, when the common state information of a format engine obtained by the common state obtaining means indicates a during-execution state, sending a message for stopping the operation of the format engine to the operation control means provided in correspondence with the format engine; and activation means for, after the operation of the format engine is stopped by the operation stopping means, sending a message for activating a format engine corresponding to the activation request to the operation control means provided in correspondence with the format engine. **(See paragraphs [0130] - [0140] and Figures 30-33, Toshiba.)**

Regarding **Claim 6**,

Takahashi, Canon and Toshiba teach an information processor according to claim 1, further comprising: a minimum resource which is used by a format engine during execution and cannot be used simultaneously by a plurality of format engines;

(See Column 8 Lines 13-56, Takahashi discloses RAM in the multimedia controller which is used as a work area by the multimedia device during execution of a program)

resource control means for permitting a format engine to use the resource in response to a request from a format engine; **(See Column 28 Lines 35-67, Takahashi discloses that a request for a recording of input data is made)**

priority level information storing means for storing priority level information indicating a relative priority level of each format engine regarding use of the minimum resource; and **(See Column 26 Line 67 – Column 27 Line 32, Takahashi discloses that the highest priority files are stored)**

permission determination means for, when there are overlapping requests to use the minimum resource from a plurality of format engines, determining a format engine which is to be permitted to use the minimum resource based on the priority level information; **(See Column 26 Line 37 – Column 27 Line 38, Takahashi discloses that the highest priority files are stored; higher priority requests from a multimedia device will be looked at before the lower priority requests)**

wherein when there are overlapping requests to use the minimum resource from a plurality of format engines, the resource control means permits only the format engine determined by the permission determination means to use the minimum resource; and when there are no overlapping requests to use the minimum resource from a plurality of format engines, the resource control means permits the format engine, which made the request, to use the minimum resource. **(See Column 26 Line 37 – Column 27 Line 38,**

Takahashi discloses the priority of requests and thus the higher priority request, in overlapping requests, is permitted to use the minimum resource)

Regarding **Claim 7**,

Takahashi, Canon and Toshiba teach an information processor according to claim 6, wherein:

a plurality of the minimum resources are provided; and a plurality of resource control means are provided in correspondence with the plurality of the minimum resources. **(See Figure 4 and Column 7 Line 49 – Column 8 Lines 33, Takahashi discloses a CPU, ROM, RAM, DISPLAY, and DATA I/O resources in the controller are used for the multimedia devices)**

Regarding **Claim 8**,

Claim 8 is substantially the same as **claim 1** and is thus rejected for reasons similar to those in rejecting **claim 1**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (United States Patent Number 5,887,193) in view of Japanese Patent (JP, 7-444777) hereafter referred to as Canon further in view of Japanese Patent (JP, 11317991) hereafter referred to as Toshiba further in view of Official Notice.

Regarding **Claim 9**,

Takahashi, Canon and Toshiba teach an information processor according to claim 4.

Examiner takes official notice as to further comprising, as the format engine, Java middleware for executing a Java program and a browser for displaying HTML contents.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have known that a format as the format engine, Java middleware for executing a Java program and a browser for displaying HTML contents because Java is commonly used in such situations the advantage of which being that java is universally compatible thus making the system more efficient.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

2. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed** to (571) 272-8300 or **mailed** to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NINOS DONABED whose telephone number is (571)270-3526. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM-5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Art Unit 2144

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2144